



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

November 17, 2005

## **ICE ARRESTS U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS RESIDENT FOR ATTEMPTING TO IMPORT 10 KILOS OF COCAINE**

**ST JOHN, U.S. Virgin Islands**—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents arrested 36-year-old Copley Evans yesterday for his involvement in the alleged importation of approximately 10 kilograms of cocaine into the United States in violation of Title 21, United States Code (USC), Sections 844, 921 and 922.

The St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands (USVI) resident arrived at the Port of St. John from Tortola, British Virgin Islands on board the M/V Oriole ferry. Evans provided false information on his declaration to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspectors. Upon inspection of Evans' luggage, CBP inspectors found a package with approximately 10 kilograms of a powdery substance that when field-tested reacted positive for cocaine.

"This seizure sends the clear message to smugglers that ICE, along with its federal, state and local law enforcement partners, is shutting down smuggling routes through the United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico," said Leo I. Morales, acting special agent-in-charge of ICE in Puerto Rico. "We will continue using our immigration and customs authorities to prevent the importation of narcotics."

Evans is in federal custody and was transferred to the USVI Bureau of Prisons in St. Thomas where he is awaiting his initial appearance before a U.S. magistrate.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of the United States Virgin Islands has accepted the case for prosecution.

The public is reminded that a criminal complaint contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is innocent and is entitled to a fair trial and the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*